



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.1758 | FAX (517) 373.0938
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cassis/

For Immediate Release
September 15, 2004

Contact: Kerry Krone
517-373-1758

House committee approves Cassis bill to protect Social Security numbers

LANSING — The House Criminal Justice Committee today approved legislation that will protect people from unauthorized disclosure of their Social Security numbers.

Senate Bill 795, sponsored by Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, is part of a broad effort to stop the explosion of identity theft in Michigan and help victims get their good credit back.

“In today’s high-tech world, the protection of your Social Security number is more vital than ever,” Cassis said. “This bill will help protect our citizens and keep confidential personal information secure by prohibiting the unauthorized disclosure of Social Security numbers.”

SB 795 would prohibit individuals, companies, governmental organizations such as schools and universities, or other legal entities from using all or more than 4 digits of Social Security numbers for any of the following, unless that person consents or the disclosure is authorized by state or federal law.

- Prohibits public display
- Prohibits use as primary account number
- Prohibits displaying on membership and ID cards, effective January 1, 2006
- Prohibits any visibility of social security number from outside of envelope

“Identity theft is the fastest growing and most serious economic crime in the United States. It impacts financial institutions as well as people whose identification information is being illegally used,” said Novi Chief of Police Doug Shaefer. “Identity theft and the inappropriate use of Social Security numbers are tools terrorists and those who are attempting to evade the law use to their illegal advantage, therefore measures we can take to restrict them severely inhibit criminal activity and add a protective measure to those persons who would fall victim to their crimes.”

###